

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO CINCLANT FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075389

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ANKARA, IZMIR,
ADANA APRIL 17, 1973 FROM ISTANBUL IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 624

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TU

SUBJECT: TPLA MARTIAL LAW TRIAL OPENS

RJ:: ISTANBUL 343

1. SUMMARY: LONG- ANTICIPATED TRIAL OF THOSE MEMBERS TURKISH
PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY ACCUSED ASSISTING MAHIR CAYAN GROUP
(REFTEL) BEGAN IN ISTANBUL MARTIAL LAW COURT NO 3 APRIL 16.
OF 256 ACCUSED, DEATH PENALTY BEING DEMANDED FOR TEN WITH
BALANCE FACING SENTENCES RANGING FROM SIX MONTHS TO FIFTEEN
YEARS IMPRISONMENT. REPORTEDLY, 25 OF DEFENDENTS ARE WOMEN.
TRIAL BEING COVERED BY FOREIGN AND LOCAL PRESS REFS. END SUMMARY.

2. MARTIAL LAW TRIAL OF 256 DEFENDANTS ACCUSED OF CRIMES
RANGING FROM COMPLICITY IN MURDER OF ISTANBUL ISRAELI CONSUL
GENERAL ELROM TO ASSISTING IN ESCAPE FROM PRISON OF TERRORIST
MAHIR CAYAN GANG AND ATTEMPTS TO OVERTHROW TURKISH REPUBLIC
BEGAN UNDER TIGHT SECURITY IN SPECIALLY PREPARED COURTROOM AT
FIRST ARMY HEADQUARTERS, ISTANBUL. SIGNIFICANTLY, 109 OF
ACCUSED ARE FORMER PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS TURKISH ARMED FORCES
INCLUDING 26 FORMER AIR FORCE ACADEMY STUDENTS. BULK OF
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ACCUSED ARE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES OR STUDENTS WITH ONLY
SMALL NUMBER FROM LABORING CLASSES.

3. PROSECUTION IS DEMANDING DEATH SENTENCES FOR TEN OF
ACCUSED INCLUDING ERTUGRUL KURKCU, FORMER PRESIDENT OF OUT-
LAWED DEV- GENÇ ORGANIZATION. OTHER SENTENCES DEMANDED RANGE
FROM SIX MONTHS TO FIFTEEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT.

4. TRIAL IS BEING HELD UNDER EXTREMELY RIGID SECURITY
MEASURES AT SELIMIYE BARRACKS PROJECTION ROOM. IN OBVIOUS
DESIRE SHOW EVEN HANDEDNESS OF TURKISH MILITARY JUSTICE,
BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND TRIAL
SESSIONS. FACT THAT TRIAL BEGINS WITH INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICA-
TION EACH OF ACCUSED AND READING OF 530 PAGE INDICTMENT
MAY DISSUADE SOME OF CORRESPONDENTS FROM CONSISTENT ATTENDANCE
AT TRIAL PROCEEDINGS.

5. IN RELATED ACTION, ISTANBUL MARTIAL LAW COMMAND
ANNOUNCED CAPTURE EIGHT SO- CALLED ANARCHISTS IN UNIDENTIFIED
AREA OF ISTANBUL EARLY MORNING APRIL 16. THREE OF THOSE
APPREHENDED RESISTED ARREST AND SET FIRE TO HOUSE IN WHICH THEY
WERE HIDING BEFORE CAPTURE. NAMES OF THOSE APPREHENDED
BEING WITHHELD BY MARTIAL LAW COMMAND.

6. CONGEN IS SENDING BY POUCH COPY OF ISTANBUL MARTIAL LAW
COMMAND PRESS BRIEFING OF MARCH 27 WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO
AMB HANDLEY BY MARTIAL LAW COMMANDER GEN FAIK TURUN DURING
FAREWELL CALL HERE LAST WEEK.

MACE
UNQUOTE PORTER

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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